

Message Text

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TO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, H. A.)

SUBJ: MEDIA REPORT, SUNDAY, MARCH 16

NO. 27

FOR AMBASSADOR ANDERSON FROM S/PRS

NEWSPAPERS

1. NYTIMES, GWERTZMAN, 3/15, AMMAN: HAK MADE ANOTHER APPARENTLY FRUITLESS EFFORT TODAY IN SYRIA TO PERSUADE ASSAD TO AT LEAST GO ALONG WITH QUEST FOR A NEW EGYPTIAN ISRAELI AGREEMENT IN SINAI.

AFTER FIVE HOURS OF TALKS WITH ASSAD, HAK FLEW TO JORDANIAN CAPITAL WITHOUT ANY APPARENT SIGN THAT SYRIAN LEADER HAD ALTERED HIS OPPOSITION. ...

AS HE DID 8 DAYS AGO IN HIS FIRST SESSION WITH ASSAD ON HIS CURRENT ME VISIT, HAK HELD OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT ONCE THERE WAS AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ACCORD, ISRAEL AND SYRIA
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MIGHT HOLD TALKS OF THEIR OWN--SOMETHING THAT AMERICAN

OFFICIALS ACKNOWLEDGE IS ONLY A DISTANT HOPE.

ABOARD HAK'S JET, REPORTERS WERE TOLD SECRETARY DID NOT EXCLUDE SYRIAN-ISRAELI TALKS.

AT AIRPORT, HAK SAID HE WOULD RETURN AGAIN TO DAMASCUS WHILE HE WAS STILL IN ME.

DURING HIS MEETING WITH ASSAD, HAK GOT AN IMPRESSION THAT SYRIA WAS SERIOUS ABOUT GOING AHEAD WITH A PROPOSAL BY ASSAD 8 DAYS AGO THAT THERE BE UNIFIED SYRIAN AND PALESTINIAN MILITARY AND POLITICAL COMMANDS....

DURING THIS TRIP, HAK HAS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SYRIANS IN ALLIANCE WITH PLO AND SUPPORTED BY SOVIET UNION, MIGHT INITIATE MAJOR PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN ARAB WORLD TO INTIMIDATE SADAT....

AS IF TO UNDERLINE HAK'S CONCERN THE PLO EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MET IN DAMASCUS TODAY WITH LEADER, ARAFAT, TO DISCUSS REPLY TO ASSAD'S PROPOSAL...

HAK WAS ALSO CONCERNED THAT SYRIA, OVER LONG RUN MIGHT TRY TO FORGE NEW ALLIANCE WITH IRAQ NOW THAT IRAQIS HAD BEGUN SMOOTHING THEIR RELATIONS WITH IRAN....

FOR TACTICAL REASONS, HOWEVER, HAK HAS REFUSED TO SAY PUBLICLY THAT CHANCES FOR AN ISRAELI-SYRIAN ACCORD ARE SMALL...

2. SHPOST, BERGER, 3/15, AMMAN: HAK MADE ANOTHER ATTEMPT TODAY TO WIN ASSAD'S ACQUIESCENCE IN NEW EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT.

PLO MEETING NEARBY, ANNOUNCED IT HAD ACCEPTED ASSAD'S PROPOSAL FOR SETTING UP JOINT POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMANDS...

CONFUSED PICTURE OF ME DIPLOMACY WAS BROUGHT INTO FOCUS DURING TODAY'S SEVEN AND ONE-HALF HOUR STOP IN DAMASCUS.
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HAK IS TRYING TO PERSUADE ASSAD TO ACCEPT A NEW DEAL BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. SYRIANS ARE WARY....

ON LEAVING DAMASCUS, HAK SAID HE HAD HAD A "FULL AND DETAILED REVIEW OF PROSPECTS OF PEACE IN ME" WITH ASSAD.

ALTHOUGH A JOINT COMMAND COULD ALSO DRAW PALESTINIANS

INTO FUTURE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA, AMERICAN
ASSESSMENT IS THAT SUCH A MOVE WOULD NOT AID IN PEACE

MAKING PROCESS.

TELEVISION

VALERIANI, NBC NIGHTLY NEWS, 3/15 FROM AMMAN: HAK
DECIDED TODAY WAS A GOOD DAY TO TOUCH BASE WITH OUT-
SIDERS IN THIS ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE SATURDAY
IS SABBATH IN ISRAEL AND NO WORK IS DONE. IN ADDITION
ISRAELIS WON'T BE ABLE TO GIVE HIM A FORMAL RESPONSE
TO EGYPT'S LATEST NEGOTIATING SUGGESTIONS UNTIL AFTER
THEY HOLD THEIR REGULAR WEEKLY CABINET MEETING TOMORROW.
HAK FLEW FIRST TO SYRIA, WHICH OPPOSES A SEPARATE
PARTIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL. PM KHADDAM
DELAYED HIS DEPARTURE FOR CUBA TO BE PRESENT FOR
SECRETARY'S VISIT. DURING THE 4-HOUR MEETING WITH
PRESIDENT ASSAD, HAK REPORTEDLY FOUND NO CHANGE IN
SYRIAN POSITION. THIS STOP WAS ESSENTIALLY A HOLDING
ACTION AND WHILE HAK HAS NOTHING DEFINITE TO OFFER
SYRIA NOW, AMERICAN OFFICIALS DO NOT RULE OUT A SECOND
ROUND OF TALKS BETWEEN SYRIA AND ISRAEL SOMEWHERE DOWN
ROAD AFTER A NEW EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT IS CONCLUDED,
IF INDEED IT IS. HAK THEN CAME TO JORDAN, ANOTHER
COUNTRY WITH LAND STILL OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL BUT WHICH
IS NOT INVOLVED IN THIS PHASE OF PEACE TALKS. HAK IS
STILL HOPEFUL THAT KING HUSSEIN WILL EVENTUALLY BE ABLE
TO REPRESENT PALESTINIANS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL
RATHER THAN RADICAL PLO, BUT THAT HOPE APPEARS TO BE
FORELORN FOR TIME BEING.

FYI: SUNDAY WASHSTAR, IN "EMBASSY ROW" COLUMN BY
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JOY BILLINGTON, CARRIES ONE COLUMN FEATURE ON ARTIST
FABRI-CANTI'S PORTRAIT OF MRS. KISSINGER. STORY, WHICH
INCLUDES A FEW QUOTES BY THE ARTIST ABOUT HER, IS ACCOM-
PANIED BY PHOTOGRAPH OF HIM SEATED BEFORE PORTRAIT. INGERSOLL

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